(b) As per the information available from the surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, around 6% of the households in the rural areas were without owned land in 1993-94. Whereas in 1999-2000, around 10.2% of the rural households owned less than 0.01 hectares of land.

(c) Work has begun on drafting a Bill for National Employment Guarantee Act to provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to begin with on asset-creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able bodied person in every poor household.

Waitlist of job-seekers in Pubjab and Rajasthan

2478. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons still on the waitlist of job-seekers in each employment exchange, in Rajasthan and Punjab, district-wise as on date,

(b) the rate of registration of new candidates, per year; and

(c) the details of the ratio of job opportunities provided by each exchange to the number of registration for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Rajasthan and Punjab as on 31st May, 2004 was 8.6 lakhs and 4.8 lakhs respectively. District-wise figures are not maintained.

(b) During the period 2001-03 average annual rate of registrations of new job-seekers was around 1 69 lakh in Rajasthan and 96 thousand in Punjab.

(c) Ratio of the Placement to Registration during 2001, 2002 and 2003 in Rajasthan and Punjab was as under:

Ratio of Placement to Registration (%)

	2001	2002	2003
Rajasthan	0.9	0.8	1.0
Punjab	2.0	2.0	3.5

NRIs' contribution towards India

2479. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have not focused about the NRIs' contribution towards India in different fields;

(b) whether any steps have been taken for the increasing participation of the NRIs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase the participation of NRIs:

1. Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as an annual event to bring overseas Indian on one platform.
2. Setting up of a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
3. Setting up of a separate Ministry for Non-Resident Indians Affairs.
4. Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to recognize the achievements of the Indian Diaspora.
5. Launching of Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana for emigrant workers in December, 2003.
6. Reservation of seats in educational institutions for children of NRIs in Gulf.